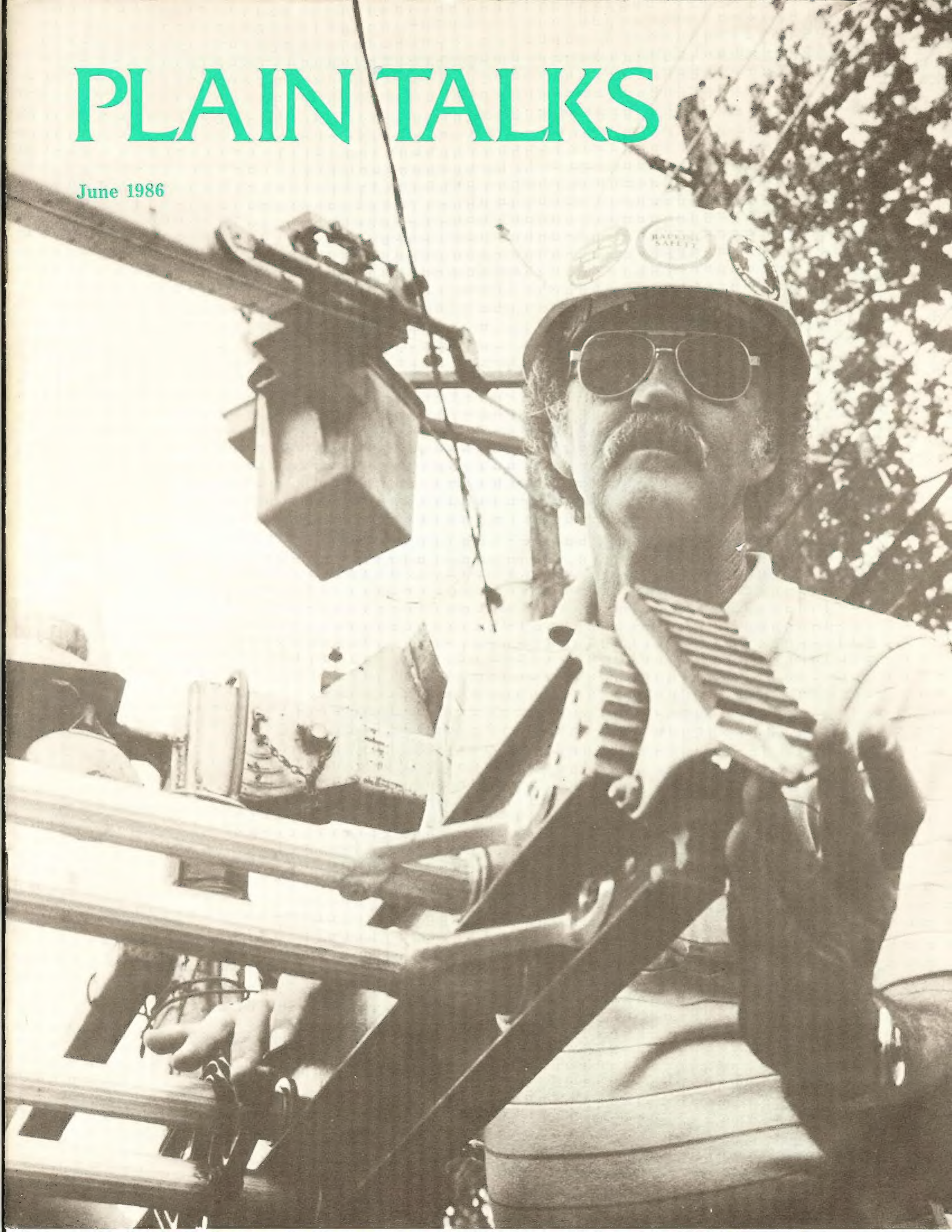


PLAIN TALKS

June 1986



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PLAIN TALKS

June 1986

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

Courtesy noted

Gulf States Utilities
Church Point, La.

To whom it may concern:

As of this date, I have called your office to have my services disconnected in Arnaudville and requested a final billing be mailed to me.

As in the past, you allowed me to connect service without a deposit. I want to thank you for your quick, efficient and courteous service shown me both times I have had service with your company.

As times get economically tighter, I have dealt with companies who have no regard for the individual but instead choose to make the quick buck, not stopping to think that there is a tomorrow. It gives me great pride to see that your company still trusts and respects its customers. I, for one, have the greatest respect and admiration for all of you at Gulf States Utilities Company, the Church Point location.

Again, thank you, and I look forward to doing business with your company in the future.

Respectfully,
Geraldine Jimenez

Tour taken

Virgil Fuselier
Gulf States Utilities
Lafayette, La.

Dear Mr. Fuselier:

The teachers and the students of the Lafayette Parish Special Education Homebound Program wish to thank you and Gulf States Utilities Co. for a most educational and enjoyable tour of your nuclear energy electrical producing facility.

Both teachers and students alike were impressed not only by your presentation and technology, but by your personnel as well. We wish to especially commend Liz Duhon, who was most

accommodating in accompanying our special group and our two guides, Kerry and another young lady, who were most knowledgeable, amicable and entertaining — impressive public relations facilitators!

Thank you once again. We appreciate the service.

Sincerely,
Deborah N. Hemleber
Homebound Teacher

Editor's note: Those cited were Fuselier, supervisor-consumer services; Duhon, consumer information coordinator; Kerry Frazier and Lyddie Broussard, both nuclear communications specialists.

Thanks, Mr. Lofland

Gulf States Utilities
Navasota, Texas

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Richards FFA, I would like to thank you for allowing Mr. Norman Lofland to come out to Richards' Vocational Department and put on the demonstration concerning electricity. It was definitely a learning experience and we'll be sure to use this new knowledge around the Ag Shop and also in and around our homes.

We hope to have him back in the future.

Thank you,
Troy Keesling
Richards FFA President

Editor's note: Lofland is a serviceman-1st class.

'Jewel' shines

Ed Hutchins
Gulf States Utilities
Orange, Texas

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

This letter is sent to you to make you aware of the "rare jewel" you have in Debbie Morrison. She is, without a doubt, the most helpful and pleasant in-

dividual I have ever dealt with involving any utility authority, be it gas, water or electricity.

My job with the largest developer in Houston and as a regional property manager requires me to deal with many different utility problems for 21 different shopping centers across two states, and dealing with people like Ms. Morrison dramatically improves the sometimes-confusing situation.

My whole outlook and opinion from dealing with assorted utility authorities has changed to the positive side from the several opportunities I have had to work with Ms. Morrison. She not only knows her job well, but she is very professional and even shows a large concern for the positive image and influence of Gulf States Utilities.

For your own good, don't ever lose Ms. Morrison, for she is an outstanding example of what a supervisor should be.

Sincerely,
Frank Rollow
Regional Property Manager
Weingarten Realty
Management Co.

Editor's note: Debra Morrison is supervisor-marketing and consumer services.

THE COVER

Safe work practices are more than mere habit for Bill Tholborn, safety and health representative-Beaumont Division.

As a safety professional, safety is his job.

Robert Adams of Employee Communications captured the cover shot of Tholborn recently, after spending a day with the 29-year GSU veteran.

Find out more about a safety representative's job in the photo feature beginning on page 10.

GSU exhibits at Energy Fair '86

GSU was one of 21 exhibitors participating in Energy Fair '86 at Central Mall in Port Arthur April 10-12, reports Sue Williams, supervisor-consumer information services.

The exhibit was developed by Port Arthur Division's Marketing and Consumer Information Services Department. It stressed the Good Cents home, residential marketing and area lighting. Marketing, Consumer Information and Accounting personnel staffed the GSU booth, utilizing the experience of each department and providing cross-training opportunities, Williams continues.

About 200 people visited the GSU

booth during the three-day event. Four \$25 certificates to be applied toward the installation of a security light were awarded in a drawing during the fair.

Other highlights of the third annual fair included entertainment provided by Summit II Woodrow Wilson Middle School, the school sponsored by the division through the Adopt-a-School Program, and five microwave cooking demonstrations taught by author Carolyn Blanda. About 620 people are believed to have participated in the cooking classes. Louie the Lightning Bug and Super Bee of B-95 radio station discussed good safety habits with children attending the fair and autographed photographs and passed out T-shirt transfers.



Louie the Lightning Bug meets his fans.

McGrew teaches safety in school

Jim McGrew, safety and health representative for the Western Division, is one of many Gulf Staters who help spread the message of using electricity safely.

This spring, McGrew talked to a group of Huntsville fifth-graders about the danger of flying kites near power lines. He also told the Scott Johnson Elementary School students about how to be careful around downed power lines.

McGrew says his appearance was set up through Marketing and Consumer Services.

Employees frequently address

youth groups and schoolchildren about electrical safety. A variety of booklets, including a comic book, are

available through the Occupational Health and Safety Section by calling 733-2408 in Beaumont.



Jim McGrew warns youngsters not to fly kites near power lines.



Grosse Tete Fire Chief Woodie Nall (left) presents award to Jerry Romig.



Harriet S. Babin

Romig earns award as fireman

Willie J. "Jerry" Romig Jr., a mechanic helper at Louisiana Station, was named 1985 Fireman of the Year by the Grosse Tete Volunteer Fire Department.

Romig, 22, has been with GSU since July 1983. He also serves on a fire team at the power plant.

Babin cited for 4-H work

The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service has recognized

Harriet S. Babin, supervisor-consumer information services, with the agency's citation for meritorious service to 4-H.

At a meeting of the advisory committee for the statewide 4-H Electric Program, Babin received a bronze plaque from Dr. Denver T. Loupe, vice chancellor and director of the Louisiana Extension Service.

Babin, who was a member of 4-H for nine years, has stayed involved with the youth organization throughout her Gulf States career. For the past 20 years, she has helped judge entrants in the State 4-H Short Course each summer.

GSU, PUCT reach tentative agreement

The day after Gulf States and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) reached the tentative settlement of the company's Texas retail rate case, GSU President Linn Draper told employees, "It is a serious situation and there is no magic solution."

The PUCT was expected to approve the settlement after *Plain Talks* went to press, because it has the support of all parties to the rate case (provided the cities give it their stamp of approval).

In the meantime, the company was to leave winter rates in effect, meaning a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours would continue to pay \$82.09. Approval of the settlement would lower the bill for a Texas residential customer to about \$72 for 1,000 KWH, which is within a few cents of what residential customers in Louisiana now pay. The settlement calls for eliminating the winter/summer differential.

In a related development, the GSU board of directors declared

a quarterly common stock dividend of 26 cents per share on May 12, payable June 15 to shareholders of record May 23.

The board attributed the 15-cent reduction in the quarterly common stock dividend to three factors — the low energy sales brought about by a recession in the service area; the non-cash contribution to earnings provided by utility accounting rules; and the prospect of a long, difficult regulatory process relating to River Bend.

According to Draper, the tentative settlement contains six key elements, summarized below. He says the second and fifth elements represent "the main things we got," while the fourth element represents the greatest loss to the company. The elements are:

1. Fuel in Texas will be reduced to present costs, which is somewhere between \$30 million and \$50 million lower than the fuel cost we now have in effect. This provision has no effect on the company's cash flow.

2. We get the necessary accounting orders to allow us to

defer River Bend depreciation, operation and maintenance expenses and power purchases from our partner in the project until after the River Bend in-service rate case. That case should be filed this fall.

3. Hearings on the Southern Company purchases will continue soon as a sort of mini-rate case with a decision to be made this summer. If the findings are in GSU's favor, the company may raise rates by up to \$55 million annually. If not, rates will stay at the negotiated levels.

4. GSU will reduce base rates by \$80 million, with \$25 million attributable to Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) and \$55 million in unspecified costs.

5. All questions and decisions relating to River Bend will be deferred until the River Bend in-service rate case is heard.

6. GSU will pay up to \$500,000 for expert witnesses for the Office of Public Counsel in the next rate case. This is considered a minor point since other intervenors could have hired them and have required us to pay for them anyway.



Spot fuel saves cash

by Mike Rodgers

The glut of natural gas on the U.S. market has definitely been a boon to GSU customers," says Bill Harrington, manager-fuel services. The oversupply drove prices down and this, combined with an aggressive program at Gulf States to buy the cheapest fuel available, made possible three rate reductions in Texas over the past seven months which will make customer bills lower this summer than last summer.

GSU power plants use a great deal of natural gas, which is purchased from suppliers on either a long-term contract or a short-term contract or on the spot-fuel market. "Any contract we sign for less than one year is a short-term or spot contract," notes Harrington. Short-term purchases saved customers the following: \$55 million at Sabine Station, \$18 million at Lewis Creek, \$12 million at Willow Glen and \$10 million at Nelson in 1985. The spot market works on an if, as or when basis. "That means," explains Harrington,

"that if the supplier has it, as it is available and when they can sell it to us, they will." A spot market supplier might sell gas to GSU at one price and then turn around and sell it to someone else for more or less money, depending on market conditions. This flexibility makes it cheaper to buy, but since the company can't always count on its being available, its spot market purchases are limited.

With the expiration of the 20-year Exxon contract on Jan. 1, 1985, the company began supplementing its existing long-term contracts with short-term contracts for a three- or four-month period. This has evolved to contracts on a month-by-month basis. The company sends out its estimated fuel requirements to an approved list of short-term suppliers. Says Harrington, "We buy gas as a percentage of the power plant requirements. For instance, we might ask a successful bidder to supply 50 percent of the gas we need at Willow Glen." This competitive

bidding for short-term gas helps to get GSU the best price. The company also keeps a list of spot market suppliers. Sometimes, a half-cent difference in price determines which spot market supplier receives Gulf States' business. Today, short-term gas is often cheaper than purchased power. Harrington and Mickey Wilson, supervisor-gas and oil fuels, are on the phone daily negotiating for gas.

Geography plays an important role in GSU's ability to purchase gas at a good price. The service area covers parts of Texas and Louisiana, the nation's top two gas producers. Since the gas is nearby, the company doesn't have high transportation costs added on. Some of the gas comes from offshore rigs virtually next to our service area. Additionally, we have made many new pipeline connections to our own generating stations to broaden our connected pipeline access.

Gulf States is positioned well to take advantage of low gas prices, but Harrington cautions that they won't stay this low forever. "Eventually a shortage will occur and prices will climb again. We can't prevent that from happening, but we have and will continue to position ourselves to get the best possible fuel prices," he says.



Above, construction work on the nine-mile pipeline to Sabine Station was completed in 1985. At right, the pipeline was buried when construction was finished.



Photos by Tom Crowe

Legal secretary relishes challenge

by Susan Gilley

To be a successful secretary, one must be capable of working closely with other people, but have an aptitude for independent work, too.

That's how Suzette Molnar, secretary-Legal, sees the job.

"It's true that you almost have to be a mind reader at times. I work pretty closely with Cecil (Johnson, general manager-Legal Department), but I'm independent, too. For instance, Cecil doesn't always have time to be concerned about the small details," Molnar notes. "I know that he wants and needs to know when a flight is leaving for Austin, but I also know that he doesn't need to have to worry about making arrangements. I just go ahead and handle that, without waiting to be told."

Molnar, who has been with GSU nine years, says she decided to be a secretary while in high school because she enjoyed the typing and business courses she took then. She landed a position in GSU's steno pool a few months after graduating from Beaumont's French High School, then transferred to the Legal Department.

Partly because she had not gone to college and partly "just for myself," Molnar decided to pursue the Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) designation. Since 1982, she has passed five of the test's six parts and she will learn late this summer whether she passed the final part of the test — accounting — which she took May 3.

In preparation for the examination, Molnar and several other GSU secretaries enrolled in Lamar University for an evening CPS review class several years ago. The other five parts of the test are behavioral science, secretarial skills and decision-making, office procedures and administration, business law, and

economics and management.

Molnar says her routine duties include "staying on top of deadlines" for Johnson and other GSU attorneys and "making sure that we have representation at hearings that come up." She also arranges for court reporters to be at Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) hearings. The usual tasks include opening mail, filing, typing and, on a more infrequent basis, working in the law library.

She feels that other aspects of her job are more challenging. "I do rate case-related work. One of my responsibilities is to keep track of all the action taken by cities after they're presented with a rate increase request. I keep up with that on a weekly — and sometimes a daily — basis. I can prepare some routine pleadings in connection with city action for signature by one of the attorneys."

Molnar enjoys sometimes filling in for the temporary office staff in Austin during a rate case and attending the hearings. When Johnson spends weeks at a time in Austin, Molnar remains in touch on a daily basis, either directly by telephone or by relaying messages through others in Austin.

In the past, Molnar's job responsibilities have included

preparing the departmental budget and keeping track of all legal fees paid to outside attorneys. Although those jobs are now handled by others, Molnar says they served as "great learning experiences."

Aside from her high school courses and the CPS night class, much of Molnar's professional training has been carried out on the job. Like many other GSU secretaries, she uses the 8100 word processing system. "Isn't it great!" she exults.

During high school and for a few months afterward, Molnar was a retail sales clerk for a couple of Beaumont department stores. While the job duties were very different from those of a secretary, Molnar identifies at least one similarity.

"In both jobs, you have to be personable. I dealt with people in sales, and I deal with all kinds of people in this job. For instance, I often talk with callers from the commissions, as well as outside attorneys who represent GSU and attorneys on the opposing side."

But Molnar concedes that she enjoys just about everything about her job as a secretary. "Being a secretary to someone," she muses, "gives you more challenges to learn different things."



Suzette Molnar

A day with a safety

Text and photos by Robert Adams



Checking out safety gloves (above left) and talking about safety with people like Ray Coleman, utility foreman-substation, are all in a day's work for Tholborn.

Most employees probably keep safety in mind when they work. But to a certain group of employees, safety is more than a work practice. They are the "company professionals in safety matters" — the safety and health representatives.

According to Ray Thompson, supervisor-safety and health/Texas, the responsibilities of the safety and health representatives keep them on the move. They hold safety meetings, sit in on accident inquiries and perform



Tholborn carefully inspects truck gear while Claude Carter, utility foreman-line, continues his work.

professional

safety inspections. They update employees on changes in rules relating to safety and laws that govern their work. They also keep employees informed of harmful effects of various products and protective measures to guard against these effects.

Thompson says when the safety and health representatives are on the road, they promote safety and assist employees in learning and following safe work practices. We caught up with Bill Tholborn, safety and health representative-division, as he made his rounds in Beaumont Division.

Just like his counterparts in other divisions, Tholborn must check protective sleeves on GSU line trucks.



Martin wins slogan contest

by Susan Gilley

The slogan "Beat the heat with safety" signals this year's special summertime safety emphasis pro-



Photo by Sam Raney

gram, reports Mike Durham, manager-occupational health and safety.

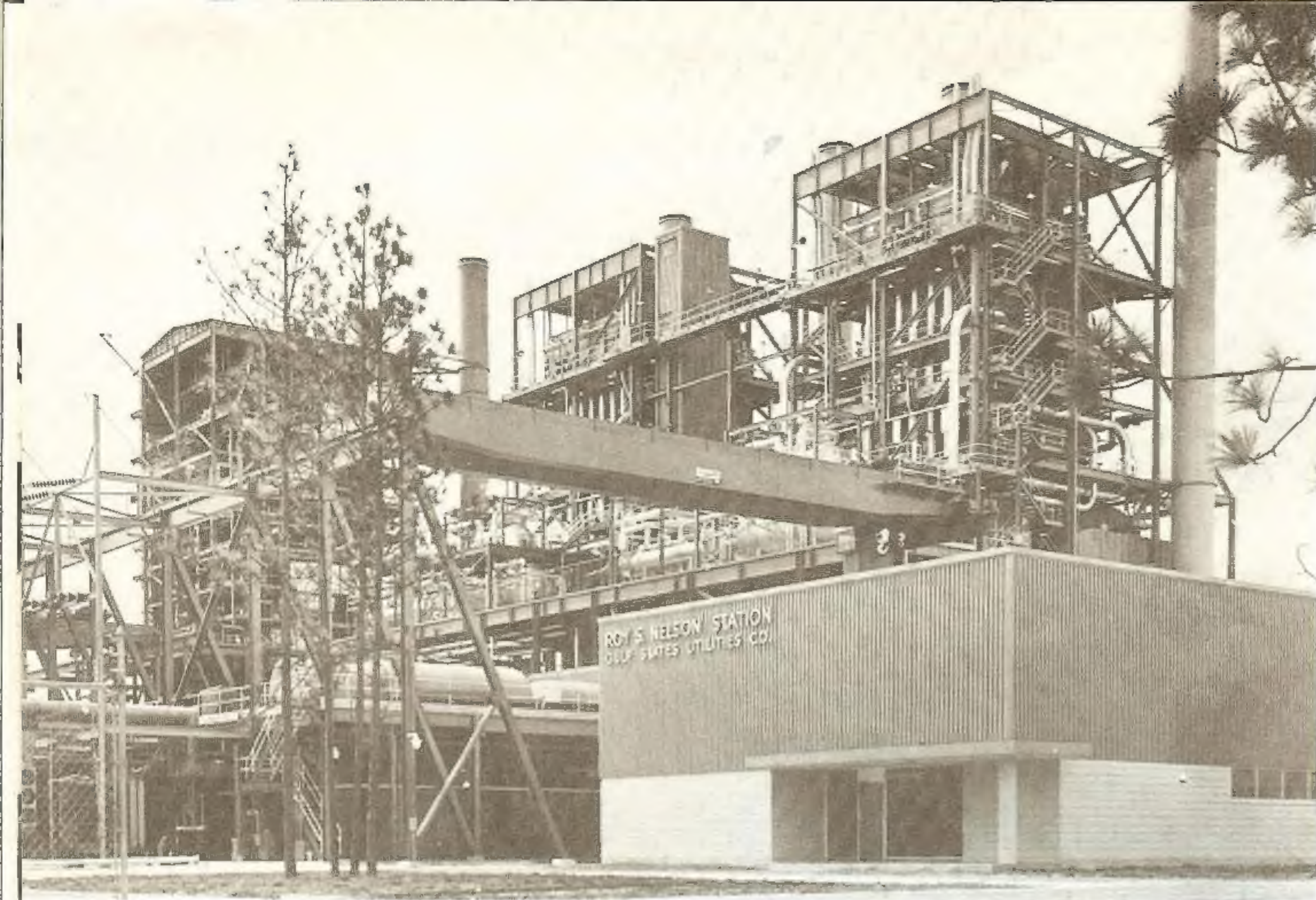
Marty R. Martin, repairman-1st class at Willow Glen Station, came up with the phrase to win the 1986 summer safety slogan contest. His prize was a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond.

Accident rates increase throughout the nation during the summer, and GSU's experience is no exception to that trend. The National Safety Council attributes the increase to the additional stress caused by the heat.

The special program was underway in May and was expected to continue through September. Safety banners, safe-

ty bulletins and safety meetings are being used to focus employee attention on the increased risk. Safety and health representatives are spending more time in the field, discussing heat-related safety problems with work crews.

Special management safety auditing teams are an important part of the emphasis. The teams, which may be identified by the safety green hardhats they wear, visit with crews and workers in Division and Production operations and Salvage. Their job is to observe work practices, check tools and equipment and remind employees of the need to be especially cautious during the hot months.



Corporate goal— Keeping customers

Two of the projects under development by the new industrial services section of GSU involve units at Nelson Gas & Oil.

by Mike Rodgers

In the wake of the energy crisis of the 1970s, with rising prices and the threat of shortages, GSU, like utilities all over the United States, urged all classes of customers to conserve. The Marketing Department was structured to perform this phase. "In the mid-'80s and facing an excess capacity in our service area, marketing is shifting into the proactive selling of power. We're urging our industrial customers to use our product, but use it wisely," says Don Hamilton, manager of the new industrial services and cogeneration section.

Gulf States' industrial sales peaked in 1983, but the expiration of the Exxon contract in 1984 and the general economic slump have caused them to decline substantially since then. Hamilton's group has three main missions: keep existing industries here, increase industrial sales and market non-metered service work.

The biggest threat to GSU's load is cogeneration, the process in which an industry generates its own steam and power. "We are working closely with the Rate Department to design a thermal energy discount," says Hamilton. The goal is simple — establish a rate that is competitive with an industrial

customer's potential to install its own gas turbine. Hamilton stresses that to make cogeneration a less attractive alternative, the thermal energy discount must make the choice between cogeneration and grid power economically neutral. "When the Rate Department finishes its work, we will also be able to offer industrial customers some additional non-economic advantages to reduce their risks and make our package look even better. Currently in the service area, 387 megawatts of cogeneration are either on-line or under construction this year."

Gulf States is negotiating a joint venture with three large industrial customers in Lake Charles. The proposal calls for converting Nelson units 1 and 2 to cogeneration, supplying steam to two of those industries. Those industries would put up the cash to build two fluid-bed reactors to burn petroleum coke as a fuel. A partnership will be formed, The Nelson Industrial Steam Co., with GSU operating the company and running the plant. Hamilton points out the benefits of such an arrangement to Gulf States, "We would retain the industrial load and get into the steam business in Lake Charles." When finalized among the various companies, the project will still need the approval of state and federal regulatory agencies and certification as a qualified cogenerator.

Another major project under negotiation would relocate Nelson 7 to Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge for use as a baseload cogenerating plant selling steam and electricity to Exxon. Presently, Nelson 7 is used only as a peaking unit. Such a move would more than double the current electrical output of Louisiana Station. The plant, which now sells steam produced from steam boilers and extraction turbines, would be converted to combined cycle generation. The two ventures together represent 360 megawatts of generation.

Non-metered service work is another important area. "We're offering to design, build and maintain substations for our industrial customers," says Tom Stirling, administrator-industrial services, who oversees the program. The company won two of the substation projects it bid on, with two more pending and three in the works. "This is good news for GSU employees," he points out enthusiastically, "since we're using in-house personnel on those jobs."

The Good Cents Program served as the model for an effort underway to help area industries upgrade their equipment. Hamilton says they are pulling together an electrification group which will demonstrate to the industries how existing technology and modern equipment can improve their business. "It is a case where everyone involved will benefit. We can show them the technology which will improve their operating efficiency and at the same time boost our load growth."

Speakers' Update informs

by Susan Gilley

With Gulf States in the news so much, employees whose jobs require them to answer customers' questions must be up-to-date on topics as diverse as rate case developments, River Bend construction, fuels and the financial shape of the company.

That may be a lot of territory for one person to become familiar with, but that is just what is expected of some Division Marketing personnel, Public Affairs staff and others who speak on behalf of the company.

On May 5, System Marketing sponsored a one-day Speakers' Update session, inviting speakers from throughout GSU to hear company experts provide the latest developments in their particular area of expertise. Discussion leaders and their topics included Judy Moses, manager-rates, Rate Case News; Pris Gallagher, communications representative, River Bend Questions and Answers; David White, administrator-Texas communications, Answering Tough Questions; Jack Schenck, vice president and treasurer, GSU Financial Review; and George McCollough, vice president-energy and planning, The State of the Energy World.

Jane Dufrene, coordinator-educational services, helped organize the meeting. The purpose, she says, was "to allow our people who give talks for the company to build their own programs." The System Marketing Department provides posters, charts and other visual aids and background material, but each speaker is responsible for developing his or her own presentation. In the late 1970s, Speakers' Updates were held on a quarterly basis. Later, a consumer information network was set up, with each division designating one network person

who attended updates and then passed on the information to others in their division.

The second method was not as effective, because there was a tendency for participants to discuss literature needs rather than the nitty-gritty of speaking topics, Dufrene reveals. Information was second-hand to begin with, and Dufrene feels that also reduced the effectiveness of the network.

Speakers often told Dufrene they were most interested in hearing the latest news about "fuels, finance and rates."

Participants in the Beaumont update indicated afterwards that the session suited their needs. Since it took place while GSU was in negotiations with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, it illustrated the ever-changing nature of their jobs. For example, Moses ruefully pointed out that "everything has changed" regarding her planned rate case discussion.

Karen Yates, marketing agent in Baton Rouge, comments, "I really appreciated the honesty" of the speakers. Despite the uncertainty then surrounding the Texas retail rate case, Yates claims she gained a lot of meaningful information. She and three other Baton Rouge Division employees who participated in the Beaumont session held their own update a week later for other Baton Rouge speakers.

Yates points out that she frequently faces tough questions from audiences ranging from kindergarten to college marketing classes and from civic groups to trade allies.

In Conroe, Dick Landry, supervisor-industrial services for the Western Division, adds that the update "confirmed my opinion of exactly where we stand." Landry continues, "We're in very trying times right now. But I realized that in comparison to

other utility companies that have not completed their construction programs, we'll be in good shape in being prepared for the future, as soon as rate problems are resolved and construction is completely behind us."

Most of Landry's public contact is with industrial customers or industrial prospects, either from a plant location standpoint or on a rate application basis. At the session, he adds, "The speakers helped emphasize the importance of economic development — not only to the company, but also to the entire (service) area."

Both Landry and Yates say they would benefit from similar update sessions as situations continue to change, perhaps on a twice-yearly basis.



New arrivals



Name: Shea E. Dugas
Born: Feb. 22
Parents: Wayne and Delores (clerk, Orange) Dugas



Name: Amber Louise Ernst
Born: Nov. 22
Parents: Ricky (engineering assistant, Sabine Station) and Anne Ernst.



Name: Christopher Nolan Mason
Born: March 5
Parents: Ray N. (engineer, Conroe) and Debra Sue Mason



Name: Carley Rae Ehlert
Born: March 26
Parents: James E. (district substation operator, Orange) and Rhonda G. Ehlert



Narcisse weds in Beaumont

Pam Narcisse of Beaumont and Craig Seastrunk of Jasper married March 22 at Westgate Church of Christ in Beaumont.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Narcisse Jr. Her father is a utility worker II in Port Arthur.



Rick Hatcher

Hatcher plays golf with Nicklaus

by Sherry George

It's not every GSUer who gets to play golf with Jack Nicklaus — and Tom Watson and Calvin Peete.

But Rick Hatcher, district service representative in The Woodlands, did just that April 23 after winning a spot in the Houston Open Pro-Am.

The day before the tournament began, Hatcher won one of two free spots offered by a Houston radio station. This year's event marked the open's 40th anniversary, and the 12th year it was held in The Woodlands.

Seven of the top 10 money winners of 1985 participated,

including Nicklaus, winner of the 1986 Masters.

Hatcher's team, made up of one professional and four amateurs, finished fifth by shooting 59 and was only two strokes from placing. Other team members were professional Rick Dalpos of Chicago and amateurs Bob Cox, Jim Martin and Steve Shubeck, all of Houston.

Hatcher was accompanied by his wife, Karla, and his sister, LaJuan Everitt of Liberty, who took turns driving the golf cart. Mrs. Hatcher is a stenographer-senior for GSU in Conroe.

Hatcher has played golf for 12 years and keeps up with the sport through subscriptions to three different golfing magazines.

Playing in the Houston Open Pro-Am was "a dream come true," he admitted.



Jack Nicklaus

Employees win ribbons at fair

Four Conroe employees won ribbons at the Montgomery County Fair March 15-16, reports Gerald Eppinette, *Plain Talks'* correspondent.

Doris Harts, departmental clerk in Engineering, won three blue ribbons for her photography, and Mike Eppinette, lineman-3rd class, received one blue and two red ribbons for his woodcarvings and also received a red rosette ribbon and a \$50 cash award for his "Ball, Cage and Chain" woodcarving.

Gerald Eppinette, clerk in



Winning creations are shown by (from left) Harts, Mike Eppinette, Gerald Eppinette and DeLuish.

Purchasing, received five blue ribbons for his translucent stain and glaze ceramics and Rachel DeLuish, stenographer-senior in T&D, received two blue and two red ribbons for her embroidery and counted cross stitch.

Girls stitch winning garments

Anna Helton, 9, and Rachel Hiatt, 13, were big winners at the Conroe 4-H Fashion Show recently.

According to Gerald Eppinette, *Plain Talks'* correspondent, the two girls are the daughters of GSU employees Tim (Engineering) and Peggy (Storeroom) Helton of Conroe.

Both won grand champion in different categories, with Anna also winning an award for Best Use of Wool. Rachel then entered her dress in the Montgomery County Fair and won reserve champion. Her dress auctioned for \$350.



Anna (left), Rachel and their dad show off the ribbons.



Steve Oliphint

Oliphint retires at La. Station

Steve C. Oliphint, electrician-1st class at Louisiana Station, retired May 1 after 41 years of service.

Co-workers brought a cake to work in honor of Oliphint.



From left, Frank Robinson, retired Huntsville superintendent; Joe A. Bailey, retired Calvert superintendent, and Mrs. Bailey; and Louis Sandidge, superintendent-Navasota

Employees honor Calvert retiree

Joe A. Bailey retired as Calvert superintendent Oct. 1, ending a career that began in Calvert in 1947 as a meter reader.

Bailey went to Madisonville in 1954 as a residential sales representative, then to Huntsville in 1960, where he worked for Frank Robinson, who retired as Huntsville superintendent in 1980.

Co-workers and retirees honored Bailey with a party and gave him a chain saw to use on his farm. Guests included Robinson and Louis Sandidge, Huntsville superintendent.

Dinkins retires in Cleveland

T.J. "Dink" Dinkins went to work for GSU on Oct. 22, 1951, earning \$1.30 an hour.

Dinkins, a senior district service representative in Cleveland, observed a lot of changes — including the size of his paycheck — in the intervening 34 years. He retired May 1.

Co-workers honored Dinkins and his wife, Addie Belle, with a going-away party. His retirement plans include fishing and working in his woodshop, reports *Plain Talks'* correspondent Clint Lilley.



T.J. and Addie Belle Dinkins

Turner retires from Neches Station

Frank L. Turner retired Feb. 1, ending an almost-45-year career with GSU.

A master repairman at the time of his retirement, Turner was honored with a party. Friends and co-workers gave him a plaque and a number of other gifts, according to *Plain Talks'* correspondent Laurie Tenner.



Jimmie Smith, Neches Station superintendent, presents plaque to Frank L. Turner.



Eugene LeFloor and wife, Seleete, admire his retirement gift.

LeFloor retires from relay

Friends and co-workers gathered in the Wilson Building Jan. 31 for a party honoring retiring Eugene L. LeFloor, relayman-1st class.

LeFloor ended his 38-year GSU career on Feb. 1, after having worked in the substation, meter and division and system relay departments.

Knowing his retirement plans included playing golf and relaxing, the guests presented LeFloor with a set of woods and a set of irons.



Nadine Hester displays some of the cards and gifts she received.

Hester takes June retirement

Nadine Hester's face was familiar to Edison Plaza employees and visitors alike.

The departmental clerk was the receptionist for the corporate headquarters, and had previously served as receptionist for the old headquarters.

But Hester retired June 1, ending a 36-year GSU career that began March 20, 1950.

Friends and co-workers hosted several going-away parties throughout her last day at work, and presented her with an assortment of gifts.

B

Bourgeois, Michael D., River Bend Station, to radiation protection technician-3rd class, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Brown, Raymond W., Baton Rouge, to pipeman welder-1st class, Gas Dept.

Buescher, Donnell W., Beaumont, to serviceman-2nd class (in training), Electric T&D.

C

Cain, James R., River Bend Station, to repairman-1st class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Canatella, Sam Jr., Navasota, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Chretien, Bobby J., Nelson Coal, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

D

Durham, Frank A., Port Arthur, to garage worker, Electric T&D.

F

Fontenette, Cynthia B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Fontenot, Jonathan S., Nelson Coal, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Fuller, John R., River Bend Station, to repairman-1st class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

G

Gerstner, Clifford W., Orange, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

H

Hamilton, Timothy M., Nelson Coal, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

K

King, Brian G., River Bend Station, to radiation protection technician-2nd class, River Bend Nuclear Group.

L

Laiche, Michael, River Bend Station, to helper-nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

M

Marks, Carl J., Lafayette, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

McCurry, Roger D., Vidor, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

McFadden, Alex Jr., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Meche, Bryan J., Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

N

Narcisse, Paul J., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Netterville, Wilson S. Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Nettles, Daron W., Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

P

Parrino, Anthony J., Baton Rouge, to meterman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Paulk, Kevin R., Baton Rouge, to pipeman welder-2nd class, Gas Dept.

Peters, Dennis J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

R

Reddin, Mark A., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

S

Scallan, Edward J. III, Louisiana Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production

Scott, Michael J., Conroe, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Senn, Albert L. Jr., River Bend Station, to electrician-1st class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Sullivan, Perry M., Willow Glen Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

T

Trove, Boyd T., Port Arthur, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

V

Vessel, Steve R., River Bend Station, to electrician-2nd class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

W

Williams, Earnest E., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

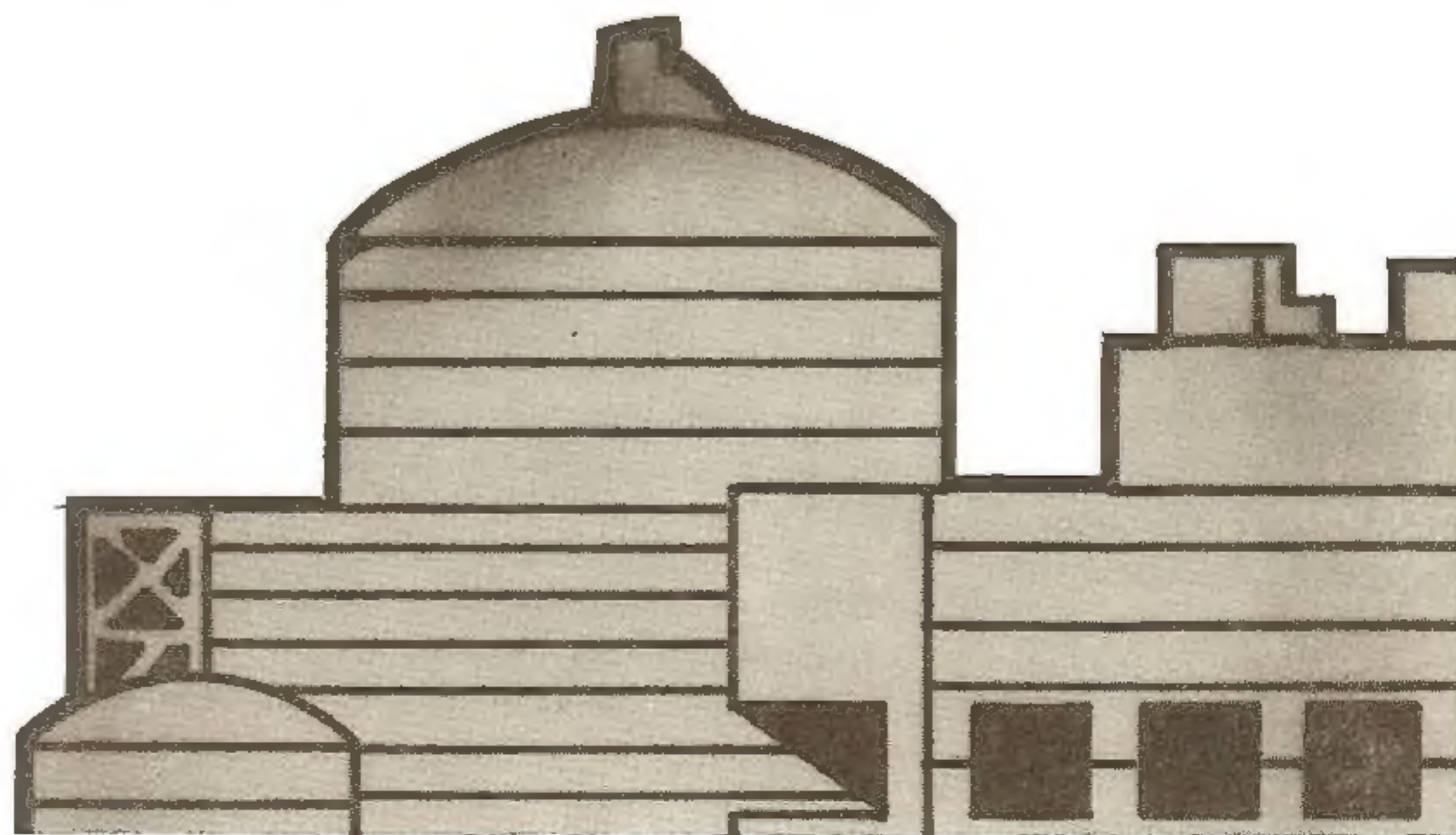
Wiltz, Larry J., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Woodward, Roberts S., River Bend Station, to instrument control technician-1st class/nuclear, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Energy People focuses on River Bend

Find out how River Bend compares with other nuclear projects. Meet some of the people who helped bring the nuclear-powered generating plant to reality. Sit in on one of the intensive training sessions for a nuclear operator.

These and other River Bend stories will be featured on the summer edition of *The Energy People*.



Reddy Kilowatt Open

Photos by Robert Adams



Ed Loggins, senior executive vice president, follows through on a chip.



1st place winners (left to right): Mark Callendar, Ottis Jones, Jet Toohey.



Other Reddy Kilowatt Open winners (front row, left to right): Charles Saunders, Joseph Russian, Robert LaBeaux, Jet Toohey, Wes Schattner, David Palmer; Back row (left to right): Darrell Latiolais, Walter Morris, Mark Callendar.

Timely terms

AFUDC: Abbreviation for Allowance for Funds Used During Construction, a method of capitalizing the cost of money used to build new facilities. The cost of money (interest and dividends) invested in construction is added to the total cost of a project while it is under construction. The utility collects no actual cash income while the plant is being built, receiving only the promise that it will be able to recover the cost when the plant goes into service.

Base rate: The price, set by regulatory agencies, a company can charge (before any allowable adjustments) for electricity in order to recover operating expenses and provide a fair rate of return on the investment necessary to provide electric service.

Bond rating: Similar to a credit rating for an individual, a bond rating provides investors a means to judge the relative investment qualities of bonds, the

company's ability to pay interest on debt and to repay its credit obligations. The bond rating affects the interest rates charged on borrowed funds.

CWIP: Construction Work in Progress, a phrase referring to a utility's investment in a new plant which has not yet been placed in service. Usually referred to in relation to its inclusion in the utility's rate base during the construction period, allowing the utility to recover at least some of the financing costs for the capital invested. The financing costs, which ultimately become a part of the total cost of the plant, are thus reduced. Allowing CWIP in a utility's rate base lessens dramatic rate increases when the plant goes into service.

FERC: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, an independent, five-member commission within the Department of Energy responsible for setting rates and charges for the

transportation and sale of natural gas and electricity; the licensing of hydroelectric power projects; and for establishing rates or charges for the transportation of oil by pipeline, as well as the valuation of such pipelines.

NRC: Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an independent federal agency responsible for licensing and regulating the uses of nuclear energy to protect the public health and safety and the environment. It does this by licensing persons and companies to build and operate nuclear reactors and to own and use nuclear materials.

Preferred stock: Ownership interests in a corporation which have been granted a preference, most usually in the distribution of dividends before payment of dividends to common stockholders.

Yield: The amount of return realized by a security holder in proportion to his or her actual investment therein.

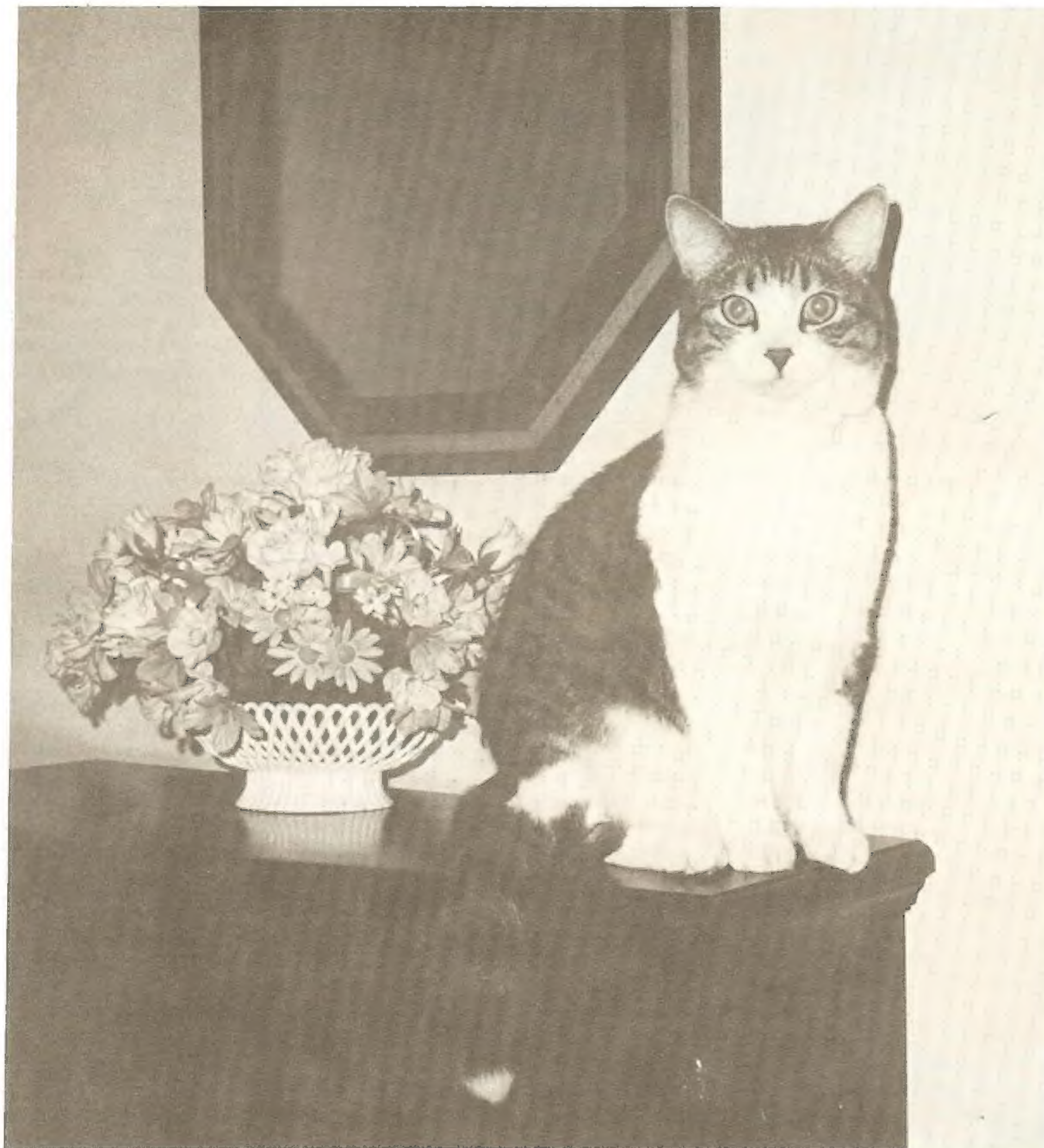
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Picture purr-r-fect

Doris Harts' camera focused on this scene when Aggie, her grown son's cat, visited her Conroe home. A departmental clerk in Conroe, Harts admits

she has had a life-long interest in photography. This particular shot was an award-winner at the Montgomery County Fair this spring.